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which the American Peace Society was invited to contribute, was divided into four sections, one relating to peace, another to social questions, a third to political matters, and the last to the press.

THE FRENCH CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES does not seem to be over-impressed by the plans for limitation of armament. December 9 they unanimously voted for the construction of three light cruisers, six destroyers, twelve torpedo boats, and twelve submarines during the period from 1922 to 1925. Credits voted for during the war for the construction of four battle cruisers of the Normandie type, which project was abandoned, will be used for the construction. The program calls for the expenditure of 160,000,000 francs in 1922, 334,000,000 in 1923, 190,000,000 in 1924 and 71,000,000 in 1925. Voting on the budget of the Ministry of War was completed by the Chamber. This budget, Minister of Finance Doumer said after the last item had been adopted, amounts to "a few millions over four billion francs." It was pointed out by Minister of War Barthou that the 1922 war budget shows a decrease of 850,000,000 francs as compared with that of 1921. Items relating to expenses for the upkeep of the armies in the Far and Near East were left in abeyance until the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget is discussed, although the approximate amounts are included in the war budget.

In the meantime construction is going on in Japan. A copyrighted dispatch to the *Chicago Tribune*, under date of December 9, says that the destroyer *Hachisu*, which was started last February, has been launched and the keel of the light cruiser *Abuku Agawa* has been laid.

THE MOSCOW SOVIET has announced that it considers the submission of the Karelian question to the League of Nations an unfriendly act. The Associated Press, under date of December 7, is authority for the statement that the liquidation of all Karelian insurgent organizations on Finnish territory, the cessation of Finnish financial, military, and moral support of "the mutineers," and the expulsion from Finland of all Russian counter-revolutionists actively working against the régime is demanded of Finland by M. Tchitcherine, the Russian Soviet Foreign Minister. In the event of non-compliance, Russia, it is declared by the minister, "will consider itself compelled to use different means to secure effective realization by Finland" of the Dorpat Treaty.

ALBANIANS PROFESS INDIFFERENCE to the action of the League of Nations regarding the new Albanian frontiers. This is apparent from the decision reached at the recent meeting held at Tirana by the High Council of Albania, in which all the ministers, party leaders, and the president of the Foreign Commission took part. The argument is that, notwithstanding the spirit of equity with which the great powers have gone about the business of settling her frontiers and recognizing her independence and sovereignty, the Albanians, having taken no part in the war, are not affected by the war's results. The Albanians will not admit, because new conditions have arisen next door, that the agreements of 1913 have in any sense been abrogated.

## LETTER BOX

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

SIR: The peace sentiment seems to be changing from idealism to practical business.

Thank the Lord for the outlook, which the dear old ADVOCATE OF PEACE has so long worked for and which it has had no small part in bringing about.

With rejoicing,

ELLA PATTERSON.

## BOOK REVIEWS

THREE SOLDIERS. By John Dos Passos. George H. Doran Co., New York. Pp. 433. \$2.

This is a picturization of the spiritual reactions that some men must undergo when several millions are taken from farm and factory and office and school-room and forced into the common mold which is provided for the making of a soldier in these days; and it is an intimate, vivid picture of the daily lives of some men after they have been forced through that mold and become now helpless creatures in the grip of some death-purposing power—now idlers, without opportunity for natural relaxation; now wandering and wondering boys, surrounded by low temptations.

The book has been roundly denounced by some soldiers and soldier-writers, who speak of it as insulting the army. It does not insult the army. None can doubt the terrific strain upon the moral fiber of men who are called away from their accustomed environment, robbed of the right to believe in their ambitions for their own lives, fashioned ruthlessly into a standard pattern, made to live in filth and butchery days upon days, and inevitably exposed to the dreg influences of life.

When Mr. Dos Passos tells how three soldiers went down under that strain, he does not say that all of the millions in the army went down. Andrews, cultured, with the soul of an artist, finally finds relief from the pressure in desertion, with 20 years at Leavenworth, probably, ahead of him. Chrisfield, an Indiana boy of the people, kills a non-com. Fuselli, from San Francisco, with a girl's picture in his watch, becomes a victim of dread disease. All of the men in the army did not succumb as did these. Many, many more rose above the temptations. But all of them lived lives of stress, under conditions that attack men's souls, and if there are some who came out unscathed, there are many between their class and between the class of Mr. Dos Passos's three soldiers who bear spiritual or physical marks of varying ugliness.

The conditions of the life were there. However well some or most of the men rose above them, it remains a fact that the conditions were evil, and Mr. Dos Passos has done a service in telling us how the conditions affected these three, even if he himself may mistakenly think they affected all that way.

And the book is the work of an artist. The characters and the scenes are fairly etched upon the reader's mind. That is the real reason the book is a sensation, as it deserves to be.

WHAT JAPAN THINKS. Essays, edited by K. K. Kawakami. Appendix on Yap controversy. The Macmillan Co., New York. Pp. 237. \$2.

Into this volume are packed the opinions upon important subjects of several of the leading men of Japan, including Premier Hara, lately assassinated. They represent varying shades of opinion, from the modern Japanese liberal to the old-time Japanese militarist. There is an essay by Isoh Yamataga, who caustically discusses "A World Unsafe for Democracy." The old Marquis Okuma, leader in the long fight for constitutional principles, treats the "Illusions of the White Race" and deals with racial equality. Vice-Admiral Sato contributes a careful article on "Japan's Navalism," in which he argues that a nation must combine justice, wealth, and arms to be safe from invasion. These and the other essays are particularly worthy of close study, now that the Conference on Limitation of Armament occupies the attention of thoughtful people.